

## A NEW SPECIES OF *STENUS* LATREILLE (COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE) FROM AUSTRALIA

V. PUTHZ

Burgmuseum Schlitz, Naturwissenschaftliche Abteilung, Vorderburg 1, D-36110 Schlitz, Germany

### Abstract

*Stenus necopinus* sp. n. is described from northern Queensland, Australia, bringing to 30 the number of *Stenus* Latreille species in Australia.

### Introduction

The *Stenus* Latreille fauna of Australia was revised nearly 40 years ago (Puthz 1970); additional information has been published by Puthz (1972, 1975, 1977), Hawkeswood (1987), Reid (1997) and Porch (2008). A recent revision of the collection of the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC, Canberra) brought one male of a new species to light, increasing the total number of Australian *Stenus* to 30.

### *Stenus necopinus* sp. n.

(Figs 1-2)

*Type material. Holotype* ♂, QUEENSLAND [Cape York Peninsula]: 5 km S Batavia Downs, Malaise trap, 11.xii.1992-15.i.1993, P. Zborowski (in Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra).

*Description.* Length: 6.6 mm (forebody: 2.8 mm). Measurements (in mm): head width: 0.99; average distance between eyes: 0.58; pronotal width: 0.71; pronotal length: 0.93; greatest width of elytra: 1.13; greatest length of elytra: 1.30; sutural length: 1.08. Blue-metallic, elytra with violet tint, strongly shiny, forebody coarsely and moderately densely punctate, abdominal punctation coarse and moderately dense anteriorly, becoming much finer and much sparser posteriorly; pubescence long, semi-erect. Antennae, maxillary palpi and legs yellowish, apices of tarsal segments slightly infuscate. Clypeus metallic, labrum dark brown to light brown, pubescence long, divergent.

Male. Anterior sternites simple. Sternite 8 with a deep apical excision to almost half length (Fig. 2). Sternite 9 finely serrate apically. Tergite 10 rounded, apical margin nearly smooth. Aedeagus (Fig. 1), median lobe narrowly triangular with a small apicodorsal tooth; internal sac strongly sclerotized, broadly tubular; parameres much longer than the median lobe, widened in anterior third, with 3 groups of setae: about 11 fine setae apically, 7-9 fine setae internally and 11 strong and very long densely set setae medially.

Head distinctly narrower than elytra, frons broad, shallowly concave, lateral furrows very shallow, indistinct, median portion less broad than each of the lateral portions, nearly flat; punctation coarse and moderately dense, diameter of punctures as large as apical cross section of antennal segment 3, interstices

mostly smaller than diameter of punctures, as large or slightly larger on posterior median portion and on a small area near posterior eye margins. Antennae long and slender, when reflexed nearly the last two segments extending beyond the posterior margin of pronotum; penultimate segments twice as long as broad.

Pronotum much longer than broad, broadest in posterior third, sides from there very slightly convex anteriorly, shallowly concave posteriorly; punctation slightly coarser than on frons and moderately dense, diameter of punctures slightly larger than apical cross section of antennal segment 3, interstices mostly distinctly smaller than diameter of punctures; no delimited unpunctured areas present.

Elytra broader than head, somewhat longer than broad, subquadrate, shoulders rectangular, sides slightly widened, narrowed in posterior fifth, posterior margin deeply emarginate; sutural impression short and shallow, humeral impression indistinct; punctation as coarse as on frons but on average sparser, interstices mostly larger than diameter of punctures, becoming smaller laterally. Fully winged.

Abdomen cylindrical, immarginate, basal constrictions of first segments deep, tergite 7 with a broad membranous fringe apically; punctation of tergite 3 coarse and dense anteriorly, becoming less coarse and less dense posteriorly, on the following tergites strongly decreasing in coarseness and density, punctures on tergite 7 finer than one eye facet near dorsal eye margin, interstices four times and more as large as punctures; tergite 10 only with few scattered punctures.

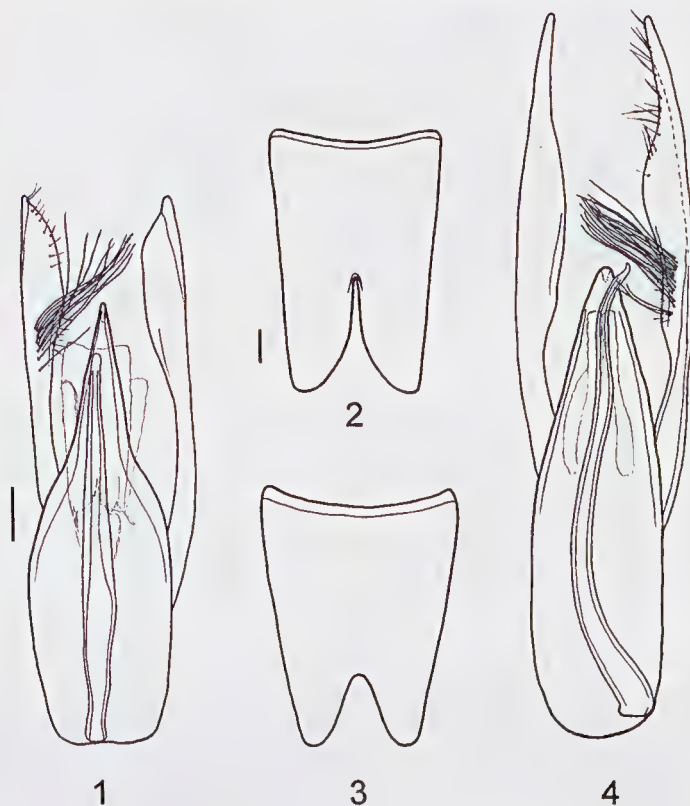
Legs long and slender, metatarsi more than half as long as the metatibiae (ratio 26:48), first segment slightly longer than the two following segments combined, distinctly longer than the last segment; segment 3 and 4 deeply bilobed.

The whole insect is shining without any microsculpture.

*Discussion.* This new species belongs to the *coeruleus*-group (Puthz 1970: 56) and may be the sister species of *S. coeruleus* Waterhouse, which it strongly resembles. It may be distinguished by the semi-erect pubescence (in *S. coeruleus* it is much more erect), finer and sparser abdominal punctation, less densely punctate elytra and by the male sexual characters (cf. Figs 3 and 4).

*Stenus necopinus* differs from all other Australian *Stenus* with immarginate abdomen, bilobed tarsi and bluish-metallic lustre (*S. platythrix* Puthz, *S. pseudocoeruleus* Puthz, *S. improbus* Puthz) by the complete lack of microsculpture and the male's sexual characters.

*Etymology.* Since the *Stenus* fauna of Australia is fairly well known, the new species was unexpected = (Lat.) *necopinus*.



**Figs 1-4.** *Stenus* spp. (1-2) *S. necopinus* sp. n., holotype male: (1) aedeagus, ventral; (2) sternite 8, ventral. (3-4) *S. coeruleus*, male from Dorrigo, NSW: (3) sternite 8, ventral; (4) aedeagus, ventral. Scale bars = 0.1 mm (1=4; 2=3).

### Acknowledgement

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